Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) Coated particles suitable for use in particle-mediated nucleic acid immunisation, which particles comprise core carrier particles coated with (1) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an antigen; and (2) an adjuvant which is effective to enhance at least one component of an immune response elicited against the antigen, wherein the adjuvant is present ~~in said composition~~ in a form other than DNA.

49. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is present in a vector construct.

50. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 49, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacterial, parasite or fungal pathogen.

51. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 50, wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of a hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and an influenza virus.

52. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 50, wherein the antigen is a circumsporozoite (CS) antigen from a malarial parasite.

53. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

54. (Currently amended) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is present ~~in the composition~~ in the form of a lipid.

55. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A.

56. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is at least partially soluble in ethanol.

57. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein the adjuvant is an immune shift adjuvant which is effective to enhance the T helper 1 (Th 1) component of an immune response elicited against the antigen in an individual receiving said particles.

58. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 48, wherein said core carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

59. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 58, wherein the gold particles have a nominal size of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm.

60. (Currently amended) A method for eliciting an immune response against a selected antigen in an individual, said method comprising co-administering to the individual (1) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding an antigen; and (2) an adjuvant which is effective to enhance at least one component of an immune response elicited against the antigen, wherein the adjuvant is present ~~in said composition~~ in a form other than DNA, wherein the adjuvant is delivered directly into cells present at a target site in the individual in an amount sufficient to bring about said immune response and wherein the nucleic acid molecule and the adjuvant are coated onto core carrier particles.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid and adjuvant are administered in (a) a single composition; or (b) separate compositions.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is delivered prior to, subsequent to, or concurrently with, the nucleic acid.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 60 [[63]] wherein the nucleic acid molecule and/or the adjuvant is/are delivered using a particle-mediated delivery technique.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is present in a vector construct.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the antigen is an antigen of a viral, bacterial, parasite or fungal pathogen.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the virus is selected from the group consisting of a hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and an influenza virus.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the antigen is a circumsporozoite (CS) antigen from a malarial parasite.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the antigen is a tumor-specific antigen or an antigen associated with an autoimmune disease.

70. (Currently amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is present ~~in the composition~~ in the form of a lipid.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant comprises monophosphoryl lipid A.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is at least partially soluble in ethanol.

73. (Currently amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjuvant is an immune shift adjuvant which is effective to enhance the T helper 1 (Th 1) component of an immune response elicited against the antigen in an individual receiving said antigen ~~particles~~.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said core carrier particles are tungsten or gold particles.

75. (Currently amended) The method of claim 74 [[60]], wherein the gold particles have a nominal size of from about 0.1 to about 10 μm.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the target site is epidermal tissue.

77. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the coated particles of claim 48.